

Contact-Required Community Supervision Caseload Fast Facts

Contact-required cases include adults who have been convicted of a crime, who are actively supervised by the Department of Corrections, and have requirements to maintain contact with the Department.

Since implementation in July 2003, ESSB 5990 has reduced the contact-required caseload significantly by eliminating the supervision requirement of certain low-risk offenders. Nineteen months after ESSB 5990 was implemented, contact-required cases continue to drop. This can be explained from several angles:

1. Inflow of cases (both new admissions and transitions into contact-required category) was consistently lower than outflow of cases (both terminations and transitions out of contact-required category) except for one month since July 2003, resulting in a net loss of contact-required cases month after month;
2. High risk offenders cases (RMA, RMB) have been consistently going up but the rate of growth is slowing down, unclassified cases have been dropping but have reached a steady state, while low risk cases (RMC, RMD) have been consistently dropping at a fast rate and have not shown any sign of flattening out yet.
3. By offense category: cases in the following offense category are either growing or flat: homicide, sex, robbery, assault, drug. Cases in property and "other crime" category are declining without showing signs of flattening out.

March 2005 contact-required forecast predicts that contact-required cases will continue decreasing until the end of FY06 and then it will level off.

It should be noted that a new rule by the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision became effective on January 1, 2005, which mandates Washington State to supervise certain types of out-of-state misdemeanants that DOC did not supervise in the past. The March 2005 contact-required forecast does not include possible impact of out-of-state misdemeanants because DOC does not yet have the authority to supervise them. In the event that legislation is passed to clarify the authority of DOC to supervise these out-of-state misdemeanants, the impact will be added to the June 2005 forecast. The following is the Department's latest estimate for possible impact, quoted from DOC's fiscal note dated 02/24/2005: "...the Department estimates that 75% of the total caseload will be realized in Fiscal Year 2006 for a total of 1,300 offenders, for Fiscal Year 2007 and ensuing Fiscal Years approximately 1,700 will be added to the caseload."